

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

MAY 24, 2004

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on May 21, 2004, **MELVIN JOHNSON**, age 58, of St. Louis, Missouri, was sentenced to twenty-seven [27] months imprisonment for convictions on three counts of **MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT TO THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION DURING AN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION**, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001. **MELVIN JOHNSON** was additionally ordered to serve a term of three [3] years supervised release, pay a fine of \$300 and a special assessment of \$300.

The convictions are the result of **MELVIN JOHNSON**'s conduct in falsely stating to the Federal Bureau of Investigation that he knew where the bodies of numerous children were buried in or near Cahokia, Illinois that who had been sexually abused and then murdered. During the investigation, **MELVIN JOHNSON** provided detailed information with some corroborating evidence of his assertions. The F.B.I. conducted an investigation which included the used of cadaver sniffing dogs. Further investigation by the F.B.I. disclosed that Melvin Johnson and his wife had engaged in "sexual fantasy" storytelling and that the story about the sexual abuse and murder of children was a fabrication that ultimately led to substantial interference with legitimate law enforcement functions.

The indictment follows an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution of the case was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Norman R. Smith.